

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

READY-TO-USE FOOD PRODUCT

the specification of which is submitted concurrently herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY/OFFICE	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED	
None			YES	NO
			YES	NO

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING
60/223,259	August 3, 2000
60/289,577	May 8, 2001

06924980-08572650

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) or §365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS
DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120**

Application Serial No.	Date of Filing	Status (check one)		
		Patented	Pending	Abandoned
None				

And I hereby appoint Louis M. Heidelberger, Reg. No. 27,899; John W. Goldschmidt, Jr., Reg. No. 34,828; William J. McNichol, Jr., Reg. No. 31,179; Maryellen Feehery, Reg. No. 44,677; Carl H. Pierce, Reg. No. 45,730; Nanda P.B.A. Kumar, Reg. No. 44,853; Thomas J. McWilliams, Reg. No. 44,930; Tara L. Rachinsky, Reg. No. 47,875; Jonathan M. Darcy, Reg. No. 44,054; Matthew J. Esserman, Reg. No. 41,536; Frederick H. Colen, Reg. No. 28,061; W. Scott Railton, Reg. No. 23,039; Gene A. Tabachnick, Reg. No. 33,801; Maria N. Rullo, Reg. No. 37,433; Barry J. Coyne Reg. No. 43,566; Kirsten R. Rydstrom, Reg. No. 38,603; Paul D. Bangor, Jr., Reg. No. 34,768; Cheryl L. Gastineau, Reg. No. 39,469; Ian K. Samways, Reg. No. 36,664; Charles H. Dougherty, Jr., Reg. No. 42,494; Marc J. Farrell, Reg. No. 37,826; Stanley P. Fisher, Reg. No. 24,344; Robert D. Kucler, Reg. No. 45,908 Juan Carlos A. Marquez, Reg. No. 34,072; Gerald Kiel, Reg. No. 25,116; Eugene Le Donne, Reg. No. 35,930; Jules Goldberg, Reg. No. 24,408; Lloyd Mc Aulay, Reg. No. 20,423; Harold Nissen, Reg. No. 17,283; Arthur Dresner, Reg. No. 24,403; Stephen Chin, Reg. No. 39,938; Samir Patel, Reg. No. 44,998 and Mary E. Buckles, Reg. No. 31,907, of Reed Smith LLP as my attorneys or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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0921980-08612660

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